Figure 10. Shell bangles from Solanki phase.

Figure 11. Shell bangles from Solanki phase

Figure 12. Marble stone with conch depiction.

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Archaeological records of *Megalobulimus* shells as artifacts in South America

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Megalobulimus, a genus of land snail endemic to South America, lives in tropical and subtropical regions and is mainly found in the Amazonas, located in the North Region of Brazil. The southern limit of the species' distribution extends to the central region of Argentina (Bequaert, 1948; Ramirez *et al*., 2012). The remains of *Megalobulimus* shells in archaeological contexts have been recorded in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Paraguay, Perú, Uruguay and Venezuela. *Megalobulimus* artifacts have also been recovered at sites outside of the species' distribution area, for example in Caral-Supe, Peru (Shady and Leyva, 2003), in the Atacama region, in Chile (Téllez, 1997), and in the provinces of Rio Negro, Neuquén and Santa Cruz, in Patagonia Argentina. This signifies that *Megalobulimus* shells was an important asset of high value and used in trade and exchange networks. The predominant type of artifact recovered is perforated beads (Fig. 1), however, whole *Megalobulimus* shells were also used as functional containers of substances, or as symbolic objects.

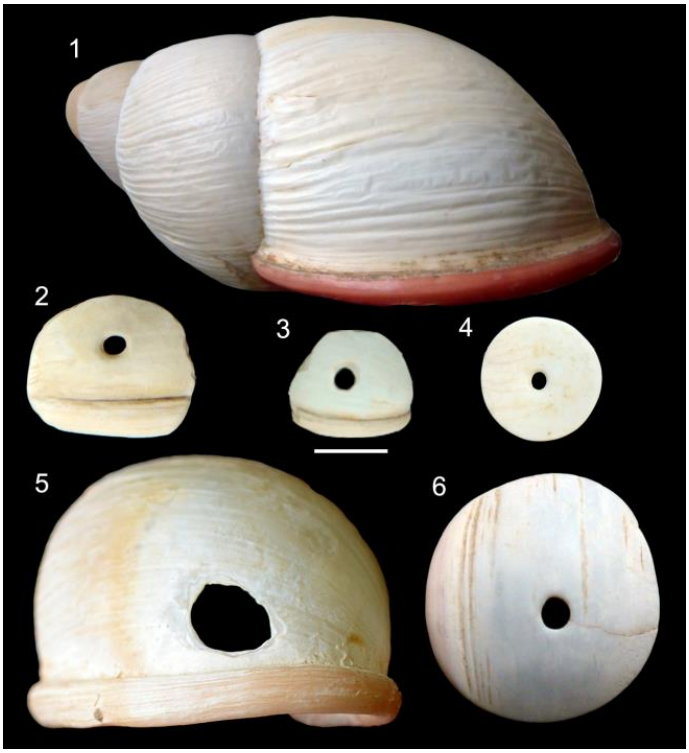

Figure. 1. A whole shell of *Megalobulimus lorentzianus* (1), and archaeological perforated beads (2-6) assigned to this taxon. The material was recovered from different sites located in the Province of Córdoba, Central Argentina. Repository: Regional museums in La Para, Las Peñas, Miramar and Cañada Larga.

Two recent findings of *Megalobulimus* shell beads were recovered in association with human skeletal remains. The first at the late Holocene site of Aquihuecó, in Neuquén, which corresponds to a child of c. 11 years. A necklace of *Megalobulimus* shells was found in a mortuary context, and potentially denote exchange networks between north Patagonia and the low coastal areas and the central region of Argentina (Ibañez et al., 2018). The second finding is from the central region of Argentina and corresponds to the human bone remains of a female buried with 32 *Megalobulimus* shell beads. Some of the shell beads represents a novel design in bead making, in that the natural cavity of the shell's umbilical area was used, rather than drilling a hole, to thread the beads. The shells used in bead making varies in shape, design and size (Gordillo and Fabra, 2018). Local museum records further indicate the importance of *Megalobulimus* shell for hunter-gatherer groups who inhabited the central region of Argentina (Gordillo, 2018).

Given this background, archaeological research on *Megalobulimus* shells is currently focused on studying the functionality of *Megalobulimus* shell artifacts as communication tools; either as corporal adornments or as symbolic elements with different connotations, in addition to establishing their value in exchange networks between different hunter-gather groups and with groups from peripheral regions.

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***Dentalium* and *Olivella* Shell Beads from Archaeological Sites of the Snake River Plain, Idaho.**

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The distribution of *Dentalium* and *Olivella* shells and shell beads commonly used for adornment by Native American populations have been documented in archaeological sites of the Great Basin and the Plateau (Bennyhoff and Hughes, 1987; Millikan and Schwitalla, 2012; Largaespada, 2006; Sprague, 2004). Though many finds lack exact temporal associations they have been recovered from a range of site types. This brief note provides a frequency distribution of *Dentalium* and *Olivella* shells/beads from the Snake River Plain of southern Idaho based upon a review of the published literature. It is possible that additional examples have been noted in the unpublished cultural resource management literature. *Dentalium* shells or what are